

Craighead Environmental Research Institute

Monthly Progress Report: February, 2008

for the Montana Department of Transportation and Western
Transportation Institute

Bozeman Pass Wildlife Monitoring

MSU banner number 426899

1 February 2008 – 29 February 2008

Task 1: Road Kill Surveys during February 2008

Road kill surveys were conducted between Bozeman and Jackson Creek. Surveys were conducted on both sides of I-90 from Bozeman to Jackson Creek and back for a total of 22 miles round trip and an estimated 1 hour of labor per survey. Thirteen (13) road-kill surveys were driven during February of 2008. Four (4) of those recorded no new road-kill. This equals 286 miles driven in February for this subcontract. Totals of animals killed between Bozeman and Livingston were:

Bozeman Pass Roadkill Totals	February
Species	Number
Badger	0
Beaver	0
Bobcat	0
Bird Spp.	0
Black Bear	0
Cowbird	0
Coyote	0
Deer species	1
Dog	0
Domestic cat	0
Elk	0
Great Horned Owl	0
Hungarian (Gray) Partridge	0
Magpie	0
Mallard	0
Marmot	0
Meadowlark	0
Mink	0
Moose	1

Mule Deer	0
Pigeon	0
Porcupine	0
Rabbit	0
Raccoon	1
Red Fox	0
Snowshoe Hare	1
Skunk	1
Small mammal spp.	1
Weasel	0
White Tail Deer	8

Task 2: Track bed monitoring at the MRL Bridge in February 2008

Because of snow conditions no opportunistic track bed sessions were completed in February

Task 3: Photo monitoring at fence ends through February 2008

Cameras were downloaded on 25 February. Batteries for all remote cameras were operational. Only one large animal was recorded at fence ends: a coyote at the NE fence end on 6 February, 2008. Magpies and mice and one person were also recorded during January and February.

Task 4: Infrared counter monitoring at jump-outs through February 2008

The Trailmaster sensors are often triggered by false events and adjustment of counter sensitivity settings has been unable to make them reliable. They were not checked during February.

Task 5: Track bed monitoring at fence ends, jump-outs through February 2008

Because of snow and freezing conditions, track beds were not opportunistically checked during February.

Task 6: Photo monitoring of culverts February 2008

The culvert cameras were not downloaded in February. Batteries for all remote cameras were replaced at the end of October and should last through the winter.

Task 7: Opportunistic snow tracking at track bed, fence ends, jump-outs, and along the Interstate in February 2008.

Snow conditions did not allow opportunistic tracking of highway crossings along the Interstate in February.

Task 8: Data Management & Reporting in February 2008

Data entry and summary required two hours during February.